

**MINUTES OF MARION CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING**  
**CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS**  
**FEBRUARY 10, 2015**  
**6:30 P.M.**

A regular meeting was held by City Council on January 15, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. over which Mayor Bobby L. Davis presided. Council members Michael Baker, Ronald Atkinson, Ralph Atkinson, Odessa Gregg, Joseph Frazier and Emerson Hunt were present. Also present were City Administrator Alan Ammons, City Treasurer Patricia Brown, City Clerk Pam Jones and City Attorney Kenneth Davis.

Mayor Davis called the meeting to order and Councilwoman Gregg gave the opening prayer. Mr. Ammons led the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Davis welcomed citizens, guests and the press. (Hometown TV).

Mayor Pro-tem Ronald Atkinson made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on January 13, 2015 and the special meeting on January 30, 2015, seconded by Councilman Joseph Frazier; motion carried.

Mayor Bobby L. Davis presented the Mayor's Monthly Beautification Award to Mr. Claud Jarrett, who was not present to accept.

Boo Lewis of the Recreation Department was named *January Employee of the Month* and presented with a gift certificate.

Councilman Ralph Atkinson made a motion to hold the annual City Party on Tuesday, March 17<sup>th</sup>, seconded by Mayor Pro-tem Ronald Atkinson; motion carried. This event will be held at Woodhaven.

Councilman Ralph Atkinson made a motion to set a price of \$15 for the City's garden flag and \$20 for the City's umbrella, as presented by the Administrator. The motion was seconded by Councilman Michael Baker and carried.

Councilman Ralph Atkinson made a motion to let the St. Phillips United Methodist Women use the parking lot behind the Elementary gym on April 4<sup>th</sup> at no charge, seconded by Mayor Pro-tem Ronald Atkinson; motion carried.

Councilman Ralph Atkinson made a motion to allow use of the Marion Opera House for Lenten lunches, which are hosted by local churches, from February 18<sup>th</sup> thru March 25<sup>th</sup>. Councilman Joseph Frazier seconded the motion; motion carried.

Councilman Michael Baker made a motion to amend the Hospitality Budget and move \$6,840 from contingency to CD Joyner line item, seconded by Councilman Joseph Frazier; motion carried.

Councilman Ralph Atkinson made a motion to table the PDRTA Board Appointment until the May meeting, seconded by Mayor Pro-tem Ronald Atkinson; motion carried.

#### **ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

The paving at Southwood Drive and Cartrell Brown Drive is now complete.

Due to several incidents in the downtown area (incident report included in packet), a proposal has been made to put a **Safe Truck Route Ordinance** in place. The Ordinance would allow use of Liberty Street only for East-West traffic and North-South traffic would be required to use the by-pass. Only trucks making deliveries would be allowed in the downtown area. Councilman Ralph Atkinson made a motion to have the Mayor, Administrator and Attorney work on this, seconded by Councilwoman Odessa Gregg; motion carried.

Regarding the CTC - Council on Aging Project, Senator Williams and the Council on Aging would like to partner with the City and have the City apply for funding for COA's driveways and paving. Mr. Ammons stated that this would not affect City funds. Councilman Ralph Atkinson made a motion to allow the Administrator and Mayor to work with the Attorney to work this out, seconded by Councilwoman Odessa Gregg; motion carried.

Mr. Ammons commented that some residents have been notified that their street number has been changed, as required by E-911.

Regarding the speed limit sign request for McEachern Heights, Mr. Ammons has been notified by SCDOT that their policy does not allow for signs in that short distance; however, they can grant ownership of that block to the City, who would then be responsible for upkeep of those streets. All

residents in that area will receive a copy of the e-mail from SCDOT and will be taken door-to-door by Dennis Brown. Also, a copy will be given to our City paper.

In response to concerns from the Citizens Advisory Committee, Mr. Ammons stated that painting the faded out crosswalks will be on the next contract with SCDOT.

Regarding questions about locating an animal shelter in Marion, Mr. Ammons stated that our City Ordinance will not allow for any animal shelters, except in an industrial area: Blumenthal, Heritage or the Warehouse (only) on Eutaw Street.

### **CITY ATTORNEY'S LEGAL UPDATE**

Attorney Kenneth Davis had nothing to report at this time.

### **DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS**

Mayor Bobby Davis commented that all Departmental reports are sent in Council's packets. Assistant Chief Dewayne Tennie shared that we have 2 graduating from the Police Academy, one on February 13<sup>th</sup> and on March 6<sup>th</sup>. Two more will going to the Academy on April 19<sup>th</sup> and we will be fully staffed. Mr. William Campbell stated that the Senior Council would meet on Thursday, February 26 at 3:00 p.m. at the Fire Station.

### **DISTRICTS & CITY UPDATE FROM COUNCIL AND MAYOR**

Councilman Michael Baker requested that Mr. Ammons get with the City Attorney to see what could be done about closing the industrial district for animal shelters.

Councilman Joseph Frazier had no comment at this time.

Mayor Pro-tem Ronald Atkinson had no comment at this time.

Councilman Ralph Atkinson had no comment at this time.

Councilwoman Odesa Gregg thanked the Mayor and Mr. Ralph Atkinson for meeting with her guests from Rock Hill. The ladies enjoyed their tour and we are putting Marion on the map.

Councilman Emerson Hunt had no comment at this time.

Mayor Bobby Davis thanked the County Delegation for meeting with them at the MASC meeting, where they visited the State House where they went on the floor and were given a tour by Senator Williams and Representative George. Mayor Davis graduated from MASC's 2<sup>nd</sup> Advanced Municipal Elected Officials Institute of Government Course, Councilwoman Gregg graduated from the 1<sup>st</sup> Advanced Course and Councilman Frazier graduated from the Municipal Elected Officials Institute of

Government. Mayor Davis commented that it will be approximately 3 weeks before we get our sign on Hwy 76 and the property is being given to us by SCDOT. That sign will promote “Shop Downtown Marion”.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mayor Pro-tem Ronald Atkinson made a motion to enter Executive Session to discuss a contractual matter – sale of property and contractual matter – Fire Department Agreement, seconded by Councilman Joseph Frazier; motion carried. Upon returning from Executive Session, Mayor Davis stated that no action was taken.

Councilman Joseph Frazier made a motion to enter open session, seconded by Councilman Michael Baker; motion carried.

Councilman Michael Baker made a motion to re-bid the Cheezem Property with a \$60,000 minimum bid and a 5% bid bond, seconded by Councilman Emerson Hunt; motion carried.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to discuss, Councilman Ralph Atkinson made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Michael Baker; motion carried.

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Mayor Bobby L. Davis

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City Clerk Pam Jones  
(no tape)

